



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health

### **COVID-19 Surveillance in Louisiana Schools**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), has developed an early warning system for COVID-19 in Louisiana schools. This system was created to aid schools and public health officials in monitoring and mitigating the potential for school-based outbreaks. Participating in this initiative will provide schools with guidance on what information to collect in the event of a COVID-related illness in their facility, and will also allow them to collect case information in one centralized location with the ultimate goal of keeping our students safe. Information included in this system will be critical for school-based contact tracing and guiding schools in decision-making. Information reported in this system will also be available to public health officials, allowing for the ability to lend assistance where needed.

### **How it works**

This system is intended to capture all known school-related positive or suspected cases of COVID-19, including cases in students, faculty and staff.

Getting set up in the system is easy. School administrators will be contacted by LDH to complete a registration form, where each school will set a unique password. Following registration, each school will have a unique portal where they can access their COVID case information and record new COVID related cases.

All information reported into this system will be password protected. The system will be maintained by LDH. Protected health information related to students, faculty or staff – including name, date of birth and address – will not be shared with the LDOE under any circumstances.

Schools already share much of this information with LDH, though not in a systematic way. This system will help streamline the process, minimizing reporting burden for schools and giving health officials the awareness to help quickly when needed.

Detailed guidance on how to use this reporting system will be made available to schools.

### **For parents**

This system requires parental support for success. Parent participation in providing COVID information to your child's school is vital to protect your child and help lessen the spread of COVID in your school and the community. This system is another measure to help maintain a safe learning environment for our students.